



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration

NHTSA
People Saving People
www.nhtsa.dot.gov

What a Difference Five Years Made! 1994–Present

NHTSA Accomplishments

Team work is the heart of any successful operation. When we set our goals in the Strategic Plan back in 1994, we built in a foundation that empowered the NHTSA employee and sparked individual creativity and innovation. The resulting accomplishments of working as a team over the past half decade have been nothing short of magnificent. Everyone at NHTSA should feel we are moving forward. Because we are. Each one of you should feel very proud of your individual contributions to the overall momentum that is making highways safer for us all. We are, after all, people saving people. It's what we do – and what all of you do so well.

–Ricardo Martinez, MD, Administrator, NHTSA

- Positioned traffic injuries as a public health problem, both domestically and internationally.
- Led the development and implementation of a new agency vision and strategic plan, involving input from career staff, constituency groups and the public.
- Refocused, reengineered and retrained NHTSA to be fast, flexible, customer friendly and outward-looking.
- Improved the agency's productivity and effectiveness, strengthened internal and external relationships, and modernized the agency infrastructure.
- Markedly expanded and engaged the constituency on traffic safety issues to include business, athletics, education, health care, policymakers, public health, law enforcement, civic organizations, the judiciary, the media, and legislators.
- Developed public-private partnerships to address safety issues, raising tens of millions of dollars for joint projects and programs nationally.
- Engaged medical, nursing, emergency medical service and public health organizations to develop population-based programs focusing on traffic injuries.
- Issued the two largest safety recalls in agency history.
- Issued the most significant vehicle safety rules in a decade, including advanced head injury protection for cars, universal child restraint anchorages, and under-ride protection and anti-lock brakes for trucks.
- Crafted and implemented a comprehensive plan to retain the benefits of air bags and minimize their risks.
- Expanded the agency's consumer information services to include side impact crash testing, new consumer brochures and Internet web sites.
- Established the National Transportation Biomechanics Research Center (NTBRC) to improve real world understanding of crashes and human tolerances.
- Established and developed the Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network (CIREN), a multi disciplinary trauma center-based research program that links medical and engineering researchers.
- Established and developed the Safe Communities program, that builds local coalitions to identify and address their traffic injury problem. Over 620 Safe Communities have been set up nationwide.
- Led the development of international research agenda (International Harmonized Research Agenda) on motor vehicle injury to speed up the acquisition of knowledge and the application of new research to motor vehicle safety.
- Led the negotiations and conclusion of a new United Nations global agreement on motor vehicle safety standards, creating a global process for utilizing "best practices" on safety regulations worldwide.
- Sought and obtained consecutive funding increases that raised NHTSA's budget from \$280 million to \$333 million over four years, the highest since the agency's inception.
- Achieved the highest seat belt use, lowest fatality rate, and lowest percentage of alcohol-related fatal crashes in American history.

***Congratulations and Thank You to All Members of the NHTSA Family
for a Job Well Done***

Donna *Ken Weinstein* *Ray Owens* *Ricardo Martinez* *James* *Chris* *Ron* *Rae Tyson* *Alfred*